Míkhan | Conlang | Fandom

conlang.fandom.com/wiki/Míkhan

A post-apocalyptic descendant of Mexican Spanish. Sound change and lexical shift has resulting in a language that bears little resemblance to its ancient ancestor, featuring consonant mutation, inflecting prepositions, and an fairly unrecognizable verb system.

A Mun Dechiz

The world didn't end in a bang or a cough, but with a shriek.

The collapse of human society came as hordes of interdimensional parasites called Shriekers swarmed into our world. As they leeched biolectricity from their victims and transformed them into horrific killing machines, only the brave, the ruthless, and the dangerous were able to survive.

As Mexico was overrun with vampiric predators and supernatural monsters, clans of warring raiders and pirates fought over the scraps left in the ruined cities. What civilization was left was forced brutal in its efficiency and cruel in its drive to survive.

And all the while, the Spanish we know today shifted with the people, becoming something altogether unrecognizable.

This is Míkhan, the language of ash.

Phonology

Inventory

The language left over after hundreds of years of evolution and isolation is very different from the Spanish of old. It has simultaneously retained archaic elements and innovated a vast number of phonemes and features.

Consonants

	Labial	Alveolar	Postalveolar	Palatal	Velar	Glottal
Stop	p b	t d			k g	
Fricative	f	s z	ʃ ʒ		x ɣ	h
Affricate			tʃ dʒ			
Nasal	m	n		ɲ	ŋ	
Approximant	w	l				

There is a far amount of allophonic variation among the consonants. In particular, /x/ ranges from [x~χ] and even to [ħ] in certain dialects, and /ɣ/ follows a similar gradient as [ɣ~ʁ]. Certain northern dialects pull the post-alveolars forward to palato-alveolars, pronouncing /ʃ ʒ tʃ dʒ/ as [ɕ ʑ tɕ dʑ]. By far the most tenuous position is the alveolars, which as often as not are pronounced as dental.

Vowels

Unlike the heavily shifted consonants, the vowel inventory of Míkhan is remarkably unchanged from its Spanish roots. Only two major sound changes- the loss of diphthongs and the raising of mid vowels- occurred to affect the system. One new vowel, ö, has developed.

	Front	Central	Back
High	i		u
Mid	e, ø		o
Low		a	

The amount of variation among vowels is fairly manageable. The pronunciation of /a/ ranges wildly, on a continuum from [æ~ɑ]. However, the most common realization is as the central low vowel [ä]. Many common single syllable particles that end in /a/ are pronounced [ə]. Mid vowels lower in closed syllables, with /e/ becoming [ɛ] and /o/ becoming [ɔ]. There are no diphthongs. Sequences of vowels + /w/ are analyzed as just that, vowel followed by approximant.

Stress

Stress is a contrastive feature in Míkhan. The vast majority of the time, the stress falls on the final syllable. In the romanization system, final stress is unwritten, and all other stress is marked by an acute accent.

The most common grammatical elements that tend to shift stress are noun plurals and the present plural 2nd person/3rd person plural, which almost always contrasts with the infinitive.

kume /ku.ˈme/- "to eat"

kúme /ˈku.me/- "you/they eat"

ñalag /ɲa.ˈlag/- "claw"

ñalága /ɲa.ˈla.ga/- "claws"

It can also act as a lexical marker.

sówan /ˈso.wan/- "blanket"

sowan /so.ˈwan/- "grassland"

Phonotactics

The phonotactics of Míkhan are fairly stringent. Max syllable structure is CCVC. Onsets and codas can be any consonant. /h/ does not occur in clusters. Nasals assimilate in place of articulation to what follows them. Most clusters also assimilate in voicing.

a- V "the"

bo- CV "I will"

paj- CVC "father"

ghepif - CVCVC "respect"

seksho- CVCCV "chapter"

kozhjuzhílo- CVCCVCVCV "they built"

Phonological Evolution

Over several hundred years, Spanish underwent numerous sound shifts and changes that resulted in a language that sounds very different than its ancestor. The major sound changes and their effect on the grammar and nature of Míkhan are documented here.

Note: These sound changes are not given in exact order of occurrence, and not all changes are documented, only ones majorly important to Míkhan's evolution.

Palatalization

The dental/alveolars palatalized to postalveolars in many circumstances:

- Before semivowel /j/
- Before /ɾ/
- /ʝ/ shifts to /dʒ/ initially and /ʒ/ intervocalically

Labialization

When /w/ or an equivalent semivowel followed a velar or /n/, they shifted to labial sounds.

- Before semivowel /w/
- Before /ɾ/

This will prove important in the mutations, when a subset of labials will mutate to velar forms as the mutations overrode the labialization shift.

Spirantilization

Between vowels, obstruents were drawn out into fricatives. This was the direct cause of the Siwban mutation. It led to the development and phonemicization of several sounds, namely, /w z ɣ h/. Earlier in Míkhan's history, it produced /ð/ from /d/ and /θ/ from /t/, but these shifted to /z/ and /f/ respectively.

Nasalization

Nasals caused heaving assimilation to the sounds that followed them and the vowels that preceded them. In vowels, this nasalization prevented the later vowel raising. Among consonants, voiceless sounds were voiced, voiced stops became nasals, and voiced fricatives hardened into stops. This directly produced the Koghilan mutation.

Coda Loss

Most of the coda consonants of Spanish disappeared in one way or another. Nasalization claimed coda nasals, coda /ɾ/ would vocalize and coda /s/ debuccalized. All of these prevented the later vowel raising. Words that had such final sounds do not allow mutation nowadays. Also important is that these sounds prevented final vowel loss, resulting in much of the modern plural and verb conjugation systems.

R-shift

The trill /r/ was lost in various ways. Final /r/ left from final vowel loss remained as /ɾ/. Intervocalically, /r/ shifted to /l/. Following /n/, it became /z/. And finally, initially, /r/ became /ɣ~ʁ/.This has created a two way mutation split among words beginning with /ɣ/, with those descended from /g/ not lenited and nasalizing to /ŋ/, and those descended from /r/ leniting to /l/ and nasalizing to /n/.

Vowel Raising

In non-final open syllables, /e/ rose to /i/ and /o/ rose to /u/. This basically steamrolled the already tenuous distinction between -er and -ir verbs. Final codas prevented this shift.

Monophthongization

The loss of diphthongs occured in tandem with palatalization and labialization. For most diphthongs, the semivowel was simply lost. Among falling diphthongs, /au/ and /oi/ became /ø/ /ei/ and /ui/ became /i/, /ai/ became/a/, and /ou/ and /eu/ became /o/.

Vowel Loss

Vowels disappeared in several contexts. Final vowels were the most conspicuous, destroying the Spanish gender marking and most of its verb system in its wake. Unstressed medial vowels also were liable to disappear. Among verbs, this created a class of verbs that gain internal vowels in all present tense forms except 1st person plural. And finally, many unstressed initial vowels disappeared, which resulted in the phonemicization of many fricatives.

Coda Shift

/l/ became /w/ following vowels, though this didn't affect /ɾ/, so /l/ still occurs as coda. /ɲ/ consistently shifted to /ŋ/, resulting in alternation in codas.

Mutations

One of the major developments in Míkhan is the system of initial consonant mutations. Mutations like these develop when the sound changes that generally occur within a word bleed over into the words that follow them. Usually this occurs with particles, prepositions, articles, and auxiliary verbs, and in other circumstances where the modifier and word occur together often enough for such sound changes to drift past sandhi barriers. In Míkhan, mutations are used to mark varied information, including noun gender, tense, negation, possession, and and status as a prepositional object. There are two major mutations, namely Siwban (hissing) or lenition, and Koghilan (congealing) or nasalization. The closely mirror the Irish séimhiú and urú mutations, though many of the individual changes are unique.

Siwban

Siwban mutations, or lenition, developed from obstruents in intervocalic position. Consonants that undergo Siwban soften into fricatives.

Words that receive Siwban include:

- Feminine nouns following the definite article
    - *chikh* "girl"
    - *a shikh* "the girl"
- Adjectives following feminine nouns
    - *ban* "good"
    - *maj wan "good mother"*
- Verbs stems occurring after the future prefixes
    - *kume* "to eat"
    - *bukhume ju* "I will eat"

- Verbs in the 1st and 3rd person singular past tense
  - *tine* "to have"
  - *finiz ew* "he had"
- Verbs following the singular accusative and dative prefixes
  - *biwim* "we drink"
  - *lawiwim zoch* "we drink it"
- Human or animate definite direct objects (optional, marks focus)
  - *ghizh* "lords"
  - *Ngéjo mafar lizh* "The monsters massacred the lords"
- Nouns following the prepositions *par* (for, specifically in the forward sense, see below), *da* (of, from), *sikaz* (at, near), and others
  - *karíños* "women"
  - *par kharíños "for women"*

Koghilan

Koghilan mutations, or nasalization, developed due to contact between coda nasals and obstruents. Koghilan causes voiceless obstruents to voice, voiced stops to transform into nasals, and voiced fricatives to harden into stops.

Words that receive Koghilan include:

- Masculine nouns following the indefinite article
  - *kis* "cheese"
  - *o gis* "a cheese"
- Plural verbs in the past tense
  - *jewa* "to go"
  - *ñewaz la másho* "The men went"
- Negated verbs following the negative particle *nug*
  - *sango* "I had died"
  - *Nug zango ju* "I had not died"
- Objects of the copula *so* when describing a plural subject
  - *piking* "young"
  - *Túzlo níngo so bikínga* "All children are small"
- Nouns following the prepositions *e* (in, on), *ko* (with, using), and others
  - *Suchon* "heaven"
  - *e Zuchon* "in heaven"

Mutations

Radical	Siwban	Koghilan
p	f	b
b	w	m
f	h	b

w	-	b
t	f	d
d	z	n
s	-	z
z	-	d
sh	-	zh
zh	-	j
ch	sh	j
j	zh	ñ
k	kh	g
g	gh	ng
kh	h	gh
gh	-	ng
gh	l	n
Vowel	-	n-

The reason for the two sets of mutations of *gh* are due to the twin evolution from Spanish *g* and *rr.* Which mutation to use must be memorized.

There are also a number of irregular mutations that apply to labials.

Radical		
p	kh	g
b	gh	ng
f	h	gh
w	gh	ng
m	n	n

The source of these mutations was labialized velars and /n/. Mutations had evolved before the labialization could occur, and they overrode the /w/ semivowel that causes it. These are irregular and must be memorized.

Also, a small number of words take the prefix *na-* in when undergoing Koghilan. This developed from the lost initial vowels of many of these words.

Orthography

Most speakers of Míkhan are illiterate. What is the point to reading when surviving is such a daily battle? As well, the language is, as most new languages are at first, generally seen as a corruption of the purer Spanish of old, a true child of the apocalypse in which it was birthed. As such, writing in Míkhan is looked down upon in favor of writing in Spanish and sometimes English in the northern regions. The writing system shown here is a romanization system, used as a tool for readers here.

Letter	IPA
A a	/a/
B b	/b/
Ch ch	/tʃ /
D d	/d/
E e	/e/
F f	/f/
G g	/g/
Gh gh	/ɣ/
H h	/h/
I i	/i/
J j	/dʒ/
K k	/k/
Kh kh	/χ/
L l	/l/
M m	/m/
N n	/n/
Ñ ñ	/ɲ/
Ng ng	/ŋ/
O o	/o/
P p	/p/
R r	/ɾ/
S s	/s/

Sh sh	/ʃ/
T t	/t/
U u	/u/
W w	/w/
Z z	/z/
Zh zh	/ʒ/

The only major rule to the romanization system is the placement of the accent mark. No monosyllabic word can receive the accent mark. If a multisyllabic word receives stress on the final syllable, it is unwritten. Any other stress placement is however marked with the accent mark.

Also, as a nod to its ancestor, question marks and exclamation points are reversed and doubled.

Nominal Morphology

Nouns

Nouns in Míkhan bear great resemblance to the nouns of Spanish. They inflect for number and gender, albeit in a much more irregular fashion than the meticulously simple pattern of Spanish.

Gender

Míkhan has inherited the masculine and feminine genders of Spanish. The vast majority of words retain the gender of their ancestors, but shuffling has still occurred. Unlike in Spanish, one cannot easily guess the gender based on the noun itself. The simple -o/-a distinction was lost when final vowels were lost. Thus, to tell gender, one must look at plural behavior, relationship with articles, derivational suffixes, and other less-than-immediately-obvious-means.

Note: The plural-gender relationship is the same as Spanish, where a group of mixed gender is treated as masculine.

Masculine

Noted via:

- General plural ending *-o*
- Plural adjective ending *-o*
- Undergoes Koghilan after the indefinite article
- Undergoes L-epenthesis after the definite article (if begins with vowel)

- Corresponding pronoun *ew*
- Agentive suffixes *-ázo*, *-o*
- Augmentative suffix *-a*, *-of*
- Pejorative suffix *-ush*
- Abstract suffix *-im*
- Process suffix *-med*

Feminine

Noted by:

- General plural ending *-a*
- Plural adjective ending *-a*
- Undergoes Siwban after the definite article (if begins with vowel)
- Corresponding pronoun *zha*
- Agentive/Diminutive suffix *-if*
- Augmentative/Agentive suffix *-o*
- Abstract suffixes *-sho*/*zho*, *-zaz*
- Locative suffix *-iri*
- Objective suffix *-zur*

Plurals

Just like gender endings, pluralization is much more of an irregular process in Míkhan. Generally, masculine plurals end in *-o* and feminine plurals end in *-a*. However, this is only true is the noun is a regular noun that ends in a consonant. Nouns that end in vowels have many different endings, and numerous changes and shifts can be documented. Here are the most common.

Regular

Gendered

As stated, most nouns that end in consonants take the endings *-o* and *-a* for masculine and feminine respectively. Stress remains on the final syllable of the root.

Masculine:

- *cheb* "day"
- *chébo* "days"

Feminine:

- *totizh* "bread"
- *totízha* "breads"

The derivational endings *-ush* , *-im,* and *-med* take the masculine *-o* in the plural (*-úsho, -ímo, -médo*), and the suffixes *-if* and *-zur* take the feminine *-a* (*-ífa, -zúra*).

E-Plural

A number of other nouns take the suffix *-e* as plural. This is indicative of neither gender, but the noun still has an inherent gender. As above, the stress remains on the final syllable of the root. Masculine:

- *blúkh* "brick"
- *blúkhe* "bricks"

Feminine:

- *pew* "skin"
- *péwe* "skins"

The masculine augmentative suffix *-of* takes the E-plural (*-ófe*).

Non-Ending Plural

These nouns take no ending to indicate plurality. However, unlike uncountable nouns, they still encode plurality, as indicated on adjectives and articles. They can also be of either gender.

Masculine:

- *pílfu* "spirit"
- *pílfu* "spirits"

Feminine:

- *paño* "language"
- *paño* "languages"

The feminine suffix *-zaz* indicates plural with no marking.

Adding Consonant Plurals

These words are regular, but highly unpredicatable. Most of these end in vowels and fall into one of 3 main patterns.

Add -S Plural

- *karíño* "woman"
- *karíños* "women"

Add -N Plural

- *seksho* "chapter"
- *sekshon* "chapters"

The feminine derivational suffixes *-o* and *-sho/-zho* take *n* in the plural (*-shon/-zhon*).

Add -R plural

These nouns end in vowels and take -r in the plural.

- *amo* "love"
- *amol* "loves"

The masculine derivational suffixes *-ázo* and *-o* take *l* in the plural (*-ázol, -ol*).

Consonant Shift Plurals

These words are irregular. The endings added to them are usually basic regular endings, but in adding them, the final consonant changes form. There are several common varieties.

Note: Usually, nouns derived from consonant shift nouns retain the shifted consonant in the derived form.

W-L Plural

- *khimew-* "sibling"
- *khimélo-* "siblings"

Null-L Plural

- *abo* "plant"
- *abóle* "plants"

Null-W Plural

- *lo* "wolf" (dated)
- *lúwo* "wolf" (dated)

Ng-Ñ Plural

- *ning* "boy"
- *níño* "boys"

Irregular Plurals

-iri Plural

The feminine locative suffix *-iri* has the irregular plural *-eri*.

- *juriri* "grave"
- *jureri* "graves"

Other Irregular Plurals

Many irregular nouns are entirely unpredictable.

- *ghe* "lord"
- *ghizh* "lords"

Articles

The system of 8 Spanish articles has collapsed into only 4 in the time of Míkhan. Specifically, gender is no longer indicated by the article itself, but by the mutations inflicted on the modified noun. The four articles are *a* (definite singular), *la* (definite plural), *o* (indefinite singular), and *un* (indefinite plural).

The mutations caused by the articles are as follows:

		Masculine	**Feminine**
a	Definite Singular	Insert l- before initial vowel	Siwban
la	Definite Plural	None	None
o	Indefinite Singular	Koghilan	None
un	Indefinite Plural	None	None

As you might notice, plural nouns are not mutated. However, these nouns are generally the only ones to explicitly show the gender (via plural suffix) anyways, so the system remains largely symmetrical in that regard.

Typically, articles are used in many more circumstances than in English, similar to Spanish.

The definite article is used:

- With definite individuals or groups (ones that are expected to be known)
  Bizh ju a pir "I saw the dog"
- When speaking of the noun in a general sense
  Ta sighiz a pizhe ew da a wis "He is made of stone"
- When speaking of abstract concepts
  Seri bad kha a nukléwman o-nirigh. "Conscience should guide us"
- When referring to the referent's own body parts
  A pizif disozaz ghimuwi a uris da látim. "The disgraced prince cut off his own ear in shame"

- When referring to institutions
  Pan puzzafna bin, seri bad kha jéwa bu pára iglish. "When temptation comes, you should go to church"
- When referring to dates and days (equivalent to English *on*)
  Ba ghuhe zho a mekule "They will fight on Wednesday"

Pronouns

Pronouns in Míkhan have changed quite a bit since the days of Spanish. Old nominative pronouns remain, albeit somewhat changed from older forms. The older reflexive, dative, and accusative pronouns have weakened to simple proclitics that help indicate previously mentioned referents. The old genitive pronouns have been lost, and the old genitive adjectives have become simple possesive proclitics. Both proclitical systems are supplemented by the inflecting prepositions.

Nominative

The subject pronouns of Míkhan are mandatory to use, regardless of the conjugation of the verb. In intransitive sentences, as with all nouns, they follow the verb. However, unlike most nouns, subject pronouns still follow the verb in transitive sentences.

Note: replace any singular third person argument with the pronoun of the corresponding gender.

- *Kazdi uzh ju* "I run everyday"
- *Kozhjim nuzuch etakh shuzaz e gukhajob* "We built this city on rock-and-roll"

The nominative pronouns are:

	Singular	Plural
1	ju	nuzuch
2	bu	tez
3 masc.	ew	zho
3 fem.	zha	

These pronouns see little use aside from their role as subject pronouns. Inflecting prepositions and proclitics take up most of the rest of the pronominal load.

Accusative

This set of pronouns is actually derived from an inflecting preposition, but the preposition itself has been lost except for the leniting effect it has on animate objects. Thus, most grammarians count these as pronouns in their own right. These co-occur with the accusative proclitics. Mostly, the pronouns are used to initial introduction and emphasis, and the proclitics carry their weight from there.

	Singular	Plural
1	ami	anus
2	afi	otez
3m	aw	ázho
3f	azh	

The accusative proclitics are:

	Singular	Plural
1	^i-	^o-
2	*i-	o-
3m	*a-	o-
3f	*a-	

*Causes Siwban ^Causes Koghilan

Dative

There are no explicitly dative pronouns. Instead, inflected forms of the prepositions *par* are used.

The dative proclitics are:

	Singular	Plural
1	^ i-	^ o-
2	* i-	i-
3	*i-	i-

*Causes Siwban ^Causes Koghilan

Accusative/ Dative Combinations

If both both direct object and indirect object are stated, and both referents are marked by proclitics, special "combined forms" are used to indicate them.

	Direct Object					
Indirect Object	**1s**	**2s**	**3s**	**1p**	**2p**	**3p**

1s	-	*idi-	*ila-	^ ino-	ilo-	ilo-
2s	^ imi-	-	*ila-	^ ino-	ilo-	ilo-
3s	^ imi-	*ifi-	*ila-	^ ino-	ilo-	ilo-
1p	^ omi-	*odi-	ola-	-	oli-	oli-
2p	^ imi-	*iti-	ila-	^ ino-	-	ilo-
3p	^ imi-	*iti-	ila-	^ ino-	ilo-	ilo-

*Causes Siwban ^Causes Koghilan

Genitive

The old genitive pronouns of Spanish have been completely revamped in Míkhan. Ownership is expressed with a triplicate system: A series of genitive possessed pronouns, a set of possessed proclitics, and the inflections of the prepositions *da*.

	Singular	**Plural**
1	^ i-	*mech-
2	* u-	u-
3	*u-	u-

*Causes Siwban ^Causes Koghilan

Genitive proclitics are sort of like possession-based definite articles. When a possessor is first introduced, expecially with second and third person referents, it is typical to use both the proclitics and follow with the preposition *da* (inflected as needed). From there, subsequent mentions of object or even objects possessed by the same possessor can then take the proclitics without specifying the owner.

> *A lajo nug ngifo pan ghimuwi ju u-uris. Dihired da u-migh.* "The thief did not scream when I removed his ear. Unlike his partner."

The possessed pronouns are:

	Singular Possessor		**Plural Possessor**	
	Singular Possessee	**Plural Possessee**	**Singular Possesee**	**Plural Possessee**
1	mikhus	mechkhus	mikúsa	mechkúsa

2	tukhus	sukhus	tukúsa	sukúsa
3	sukhus	sukhus	sukúsa	sukúsa

These are used as the old Spanish possessed pronouns are, or as the English *mine, yours, ours,* ect. They can replace a possessed noun in just the same way.

- *Eshazh so mikhus!* "That's mine!"
- *Kus so mikúsa so tukúsa* "What's mine is yours"

Reflexive

The old reflexive pronouns of Spanish, along with the vast majority of reflexive verbs in general, went the way of the Dodo as the apocalypse hit. To take their place, a new reflexive system developed for modern Míkhan. In this system, dative or accusative markers are attached to the verb, declined to the same person and number as the verb, and the object (direct or indirect) of the verb is replaced with a reflexive pronoun.

	Singular	**Plural**
1	mimim	mechmímo
2	tumim	sumímo
3	sumim	sumímo

Adjectival Morphology

Adjectives follow the noun in Míkhan. They inflect almost identically to nouns, following the same patterns of inflection. However, the addition of a comparative form is a new innovation in Míkhan.

Adjective Declension

Regular

Regular forms of adjectives all occur in similar forms to nouns.

Gendered adjectives take *-o* in the masculine plural and *-a* in the feminine plural.

- *awt* "big" (singular)
- *áwto "*big" (masc. plural)
- *áwta "*big" (fem. plural)

Non-gendered adjectives take *-e* in the plural.

- *bad* "good" (singular)

- *báde "*good" (plural)

Non-ending plurals take no agreement marking.

hika "fast" (singular & plural)

Adding Consonant plurals take *-n, -r*, and *-s* in the plural.

- *baslo* "happy" (singular)
- *baslon* "happy" (plural)

Irregular

Irregular adjectives are few and far between, but consonant shift adjectives of all the same varieties as nouns can be found.

- *char* "uncivilized, barbarian" (singular)
- *chálo* "uncivilized, barbarian" (plural)

A form or irregularity present in adjectives but not nouns are the Pluralless Gender adjectives, which consist of those few adjectives that take seperate forms for each gender but remain the same regardless of plurality.

- *níbo* "black" (masculine)
- *níba* "black" (feminine)

Only a very few are truly irregular.

- *mawbaz* "bad" (singular)
- *málo* "bad" (masculine plural)
- *mála* "bad" (feminine plural)

Adjective Use

Adjectives used attributively generally follow the noun, except for most quantifiers and demonstrative pronouns. Adjectives that modify feminine nouns undergo lenition, but quanitifiers that precede do not.

- *o bir tod* "a dead dog"
- *la chíkha ghádе* "the good girls"
- *túzla karíños* "all women"
- *numet ghizh* "many lords"
- *echakh wis* "this rock"

If used predicately, adjectives occur in the "*So* Adjective Noun" constructions. Plural subjects cause *so* to cause nasalization to the adjective.

- *So ging katizh* "The castle is ugly"
- *Er n-áwta la ñalága* "The claws were long"

Multiple adjectives can occur both predicatively or attributively. In predicative constructions, *ima* "and" is used to link the adjectives.

- *Er n-áwta ima níba la ñalága* "The claws were long and black"
- *So ging ima char a mash* "The man is ugly and brutish"

Simple juxtaposition does the duty for multiple attributive adjectives.

- *shef pes malon ghínga* "seven ugly brown fish"
- *la siñífa áwta muwáfa* "the tall beautiful women"

Finally, adjectives can be rendered as nouns if preceded with the definite article *a*. Depending on context, this can be interpreted as *Adjective* things or *Adjective*ness or the quality of being *Adjective.* These are rendered as masculine.

- *A hika ima a tod* "the quick and the dead"
- *Kunok ju kha bu chíne a bad edi* "I know there is good in you"

Comparative

The Míkhan comparative form is a relatively new innovation and remains fairly regular and predictable in its use. The vast majority of comparatives are formed via the prefix *ma(s)-*, with stress remaining on the root. The root used will always be the singular masculine.

- *masawt* "bigger"
- *mabaslo* "happier"
- *maníbo* "blacker"

Though a few take the prefix *masa-*.

- *masahika* "faster"
- *masazifaz* "more acceptable"

And a few of the most common adjectives have entirely irregular forms.

- *mo* "better" (comparitive of *bad* or *ben*)
- *po* "worse" (comparitive of *mawbaz*)
- *mazh* "bigger" (comparitive of *awt*)

Comparative Use

Most of the time, the comparative functions as it would in Spanish or English. When used attributively, it follows directly after the noun.

- *O mash mo* "A better man"
- *A chiwu machar* "The more uncivilized tribe"

When used predicatively, use it exactly as any other predicative adjective.

- *So po i-boblem dimi* "My problem is worse"
- *So hika a ghasiw, míno so masahika a gafokhulen* "The gazelle is fast, but the cheetah is faster"

And contrastive statements indicate the other party using *kha*.

- *So masazifaz a l-efi kha a khuwadi* "Death is more acceptable than cowardice"
- *Kunok ju kha so mo ju kha bu* "I know I am better than you"

One can indicate the superlative of the adjective by preceding it with the definite article. The leniting effect of feminine is used in this context, as is the n-epenthesis of plural *so.* Predicatively, this is treated as a noun equalitative, with a "Noun *so* Adjective" pattern rather than the "*So* adjective noun" as in a positive or comparative statements.

- *I-ghimew dimi so a fo* "My sister is the worst"
- *Fa da Shiwaw so a maging* "Fa of the north is the ugliest"
- *Eshazh ngéjo er na matod kha to biz ju* "Those monsters were the deadest I've ever seen"

When used attributively, the superlative occurs *before* the noun, with the definite article.

- *A mamew níño bíne bíña o chiwu shar* "The youngest boys hail from one of the uncivilized tribes"
- *Okh Aslan so a masawt shiwaw e n-etakh jir* "South Aztlan is the biggest city in this land"

Verbal Morphology

The verbs of Míkhan have become something very different from its ancestral days of Spanish's full Romance splendor. Though some of Spanish's fusional endings are still alive and kicking, most of the weight of meaning is carried in auxilliaries, periphrastic verb constructions, and particles. Though quite different from its ancestor, there is still recognition in modern Míkhan's verbs. You just need to know where to look.

Fusional Forms

Infinitive

The three verb groups of Spanish have collapsed into only two in Míkhan, with *-ar* forming modern Type-A (*-a*) verbs, and *-er* and *-ir* forms merging into the Type-E (*-e*) conjugations. All verbs fall into one of these two conjugations. Each group will behave differently when conjugated.

Some Regular Type-A verbs:

- *obiza* "to forgive"
- *chala* "to talk, speak"
- *jewa* "to go"

Some irregular Type-A verbs:

- *pizha* "to do, make"
- *aka* "to kill"
- *khugha* "to fight, duel"

Some regular Type-E Verbs:

- *sighe* "to follow"
- *biwe* "to drink"
- *kume* "to eat"

Some irregular Type-E Verbs:

- *kuse* "to cook"
- *be* "to see"
- *tine* "to have"

Present Tense

Regular Verbs

The full spectrum of person marking found in Spanish has collapsed somewhat in Míkhan. Vowel and consonant loss has resulted in there being 3-present tense forms for Regular Verbs.

	Type-A	**Type-E**
1s	None (consonant)	None (consonant)
2s	-*a* (stress shift forward)	-*e* (stress shift forward)
3s	None (consonant)	None (consonant)
1p	-*am*	-*im*
2p	-*a* (stress shift forward)	-*e* (stress shift forward)
3p	-*a* (stress shift forward)	-*e* (stress shift forward)

All but the 1st person plural forms of the present tense are stressed on the last syllable of the root.

Regular Verb Examples

> **tukha**
> **"to fight in large battles"**

Singular	**Plural**

1	tukh	tukham
2	túkha	túkha
3	tukh	túkha

jewa
"to go"

	Singular	**Plural**
1	jew	jewam
2	jéwa	jéwa
3	jew	jéwa

Consonant Shift Stems

Just as in nouns, the verbs of Míkhan are subject to shifting consonants at the stem level. Specifically, in the present tense, the 1st person singular/ 3rd person singular form has no vowel ending. This is thus subject to change. Simultaneously, this is regular and less than regular. For verbs in which the final consonants is *ñ, h,* or *w* after *o or u*, the change is to be expected:

- *oña* → *ong* "to prepare → I/he/she/it prepares"
- *baha* → *bas* "to travel → I/he/she/it travels"
- *ghuwa* → *ghub* "to steal→ I/he/she/it steals"

With verbs in which the final consonant of the stem is *l*, you can be sure it is irregular, but exactly which form of irregularity the verb takes is difficult to be sure of.

- *ghiwila* → *ghiwiw* "to rebel → I/he/she/it rebels"
- *kule* → *kur* "to sprint → I/he/she/it sprints"
- *ebola* → *ebob* "to poison→ I/he/she/it poisons"

Unlike nouns, where these changes are entirely unpredicable, one can usually assume the form or possible forms of these verbs based on the infinitive, which is the given form. As such, they remain more regular than one would imagine. However, due to similarity to the consonant shifting plurals of nouns, and the unpredictability of many L-stem verbs, these are usually considered irregular.

As shown, the six consonant shifts of nouns are all present among verbs, although they are flipped among verbs: L-W verbs, L-B verbs, L-R Verbs, Ñ-Ng Verbs, H-S verbs, and W-B verbs are all present.

All other forms of these verbs in the present tense are regular.

oña

	Singular	Plural
1	ong	oñam
2	óña	óña
3	ong	óña

Vowel-Changing Verbs

The older, simple stem-changing verbs of Spanish have taken on new shapes. Specifically, stem changing verbs are less common and of higher variety than they used to be. The old E-I, E-IE, and O-UE distinctions have become the modern E-I, O-E, and U-I verbs. The stem change will manifest in all present tense forms except for the 1st person plural.

E-I Verbs

There are only 3 modern E-I verbs: *sebe* "to serve", *bete* "to become, change", and *ghene* "to fail, give up" or "to take over". All three are shown here.

sebe
"to serve"

	Singular	Plural
1	sib	sebim
2	síbe	síbe
3	sib	síbe

bete
"to change, become"

	Singular	Plural
1	bit	betim
2	bíte	bíte
3	bit	bíte

ghene
"to fail, give up, take over"

	Singular	Plural
1	ghin	ghenim
2	ghíne	ghíne
3	ghin	ghíne

O-E Verbs

There are far more O-E verbs than E-I verbs. All O-E verbs in which the consonant before the O is a velar (k, g, kh, gh) or n are also labializing verbs (see below).

Examples:

mocha
"to show, flaunt"

	Singular	Plural
1	mech	mecham
2	mécha	mécha
3	mech	mécha

awzobe
"to make good, pay off"

	Singular	Plural
1	awzeb	awzobim
2	awzébe	awzébe
3	awzeb	awzébe

dome
"to be dead"

	Singular	Plural
1	dem	domim
2	déme	déme
3	dem	déme

U-I Verbs

This is the most common stem change. All U-I verbs in which the consonant before the U is a velar (k, g, kh, gh) or n are also labializing verbs (see below).

Examples:

ngusa
"to swell"

	Singular	Plural
1	ngis	ngusim
2	ngísa	ngísa
3	ngis	ngísa

ghimuwe
"to cut off"

	Singular	Plural
1	ghimiw	ghimuwim
2	ghimíwe	ghimíwe
3	ghimiw	ghimíwe

mure
"to die peacefully"

	Singular	Plural
1	mir	murim

2	míre	míre
3	mir	míre

Consonant Changing Stem

In addition to the vowel changing stem verbs listed, there are two forms of consonant changing stem: palatalizing verbs and labializing verbs.

Palatalizing Verbs

Palatalizing verbs occur among certain verbs whose stems occur with the pattern TFCV, where T is one of the consonants *t, d, s, z, f,* or *n,* F is one of the front vowels *e* or *i*, *C* is any consonant, and *V* is either infinitive ending, *-a* or *-e*. In all present tense forms except for the 1st person plural, the given consonant changes to a palatal consonant. This change can occur at the beginning or in the middle of a word. This change never cooccurs with a vowel change. The changes are:

- *t* → *ch*
- *d* → *j*
- *s* → *sh*
- *f* → *sh*
- z → *zh*
- *n* → *ñ*

Examples:

teda
"to trick"

	Singular	**Plural**
1	ched	tedam
2	chéda	chéda
3	ched	chéda

edene
"to understand"

	Singular	**Plural**
1	ejen	edenim
2	ejéna	ejéna

3	ejen	ejéna

susigha
"to incapacitate, put to sleep"

	Singular	Plural
1	sushigh	susigham
2	sushígha	sushígha
3	sushigh	sushígha

afila
"to terrify"

	Singular	Plural
1	ashir	afilam
2	ashíla	ashíla
3	ashir	ashíla

kozene
"to concern, behave improperly"

	Singular	Plural
1	kozhen	kozenim
2	kozhéne	kozhéne
3	kozhen	kozhéne

niwa
"to crumble to dust"

	Singular	Plural

1	ñiw	niwam
2	ñíwa	ñíwa
3	ñiw	ñíwa

There are also two vowel initial palatalizing verbs: *ila* and *ire.* These verbs take *zh* at the beginning of the stem in all present tense forms except for the 1st person plural.

ila
"to crumble to dust"

	Singular	**Plural**
1	zhiw	ilam
2	zhíla	zhíla
3	zhiw	zhíla

ire
"to wound, cut"

	Singular	**Plural**
1	zhir	irim
2	zhíre	zhíre
3	zhir	zhíre

Labalizing Verbs

Palatalizing verbs occur among certain verbs whose stems occur with the pattern KBCV, where T is one of the consonants *k, g, kh, gh,* or *n,* B is one of the back vowels *o* or *u*, C is any consonant, and V is either infinitive ending, *-a* or *-e*. In all present tense forms except for the 1st person plural, the given consonant changes to a labial consonant. This change can occur at the beginning or in the middle of a word. This change always cooccurs with a O-E or U-I vowel change. The changes are:

- *k→ p*
- *g→ b*
- *kh→ f*
- *gh→ w*

- *n*→ *m*

Examples:

kuse
"to cook"

	Singular	Plural
1	pis	kusim
2	píse	píse
3	pis	píse

goja
"to find"

	Singular	Plural
1	bej	gojam
2	béja	béja
3	bej	béja

ghikhoda
"to memorialize"

	Singular	Plural
1	ghifed	ghikodam
2	ghiféda	ghiféda
3	ghifed	ghiféda

ghugha
"to ask, beg"

	Singular	Plural
1	wigh	ghugham
2	wígha	wígha
3	wigh	wígha

ghinuwa
"to do again, redo"

	Singular	Plural
1	ghimiw	ghinuwam
2	ghimíwa	ghimíwa
3	ghimiw	ghimíwa

There are also one vowel initial labializing verb: *ule.* This verb takes *w* at the beginning of the stem in all present tense forms except for the 1st person plural.

ule
"to smell"

	Singular	Plural
1	wiw	ulim
2	wíle	wíle
3	wiw	wíle

Consonant Insertion Stems

Vowel Addition Stems

Consonant Additin Stems

There is a subset of stem changing vowel addition verbs that either develop or change a consonant from its stem in the process of being conjugated in the 1st person singular, 2nd, or 3rd person forms. Usually one of two things will happen: either the stem changed v

Vowel Insertion Stems

Hidden-Zh Verbs

Special *Ju* Verbs

Past Tense

Conditional

Optative

Participles

Examples

Mesh faj kha ta e Zuchon

Hola sighi tu nóme sadikhaz,

Hola beñi tu lifúblikh

Hola sedli khubliz tu zisö e na mun iwa e Zuchon

Ghelanol etez mesh fa da khoz sheb

Pedunol mésha pikházo minkhamin lopedunam zoch pol zho kha nimlíghe

Nowanonnug aw fuzzafna ma liwranol da la awmokúla.